SELF-REPRESENTED LITIGANTS PROJECT

JUSTICE CENTRE/COURT SITE VISITS 2002-2003

Court Observation Guide

For non-participant observation of hearing involving self-represented litigants

Date of hearing:

Court: CA, SC, SCFD, FC, Prov, Probate (circle one)

Name of Judge:

Type of hearing:

Time hearing began: **Time hearing ended**:

Amount of time observed:

Name of observer: ☐ Anna ☐ Yetta

Gender of SRL:	**Plaintiff/Applicant**	Male	Female	(circle one)
	Respondent/Defendant	Male	Female	(circle one)

Observation notes

We must try to make as little interpretation as possible, and try to report objectively about difficulties a SRL has in presenting his/her case, apparent confidence and competence of the SRL, SRL demeanor, reactions of judge and solicitors to SRL.

6. Difficulties in presenting case (lack of knowledge of procedure, evidence, law)

7. Apparent confidence of SRL (low, middle, high) (circle one)

8. Apparent competence of SRL (low, middle, high) (circle one)

9. Demeanor of SRL (circle one of each below , add other observationss)

a. dressed appropriately/inappropriately
b. respectful/disrespectful
c. articulate/difficulty verbalizing
d. aggressive/compliant
e. attentive/distracted

10. Reaction of SRL to Judge (positive, negative, body language and verbal attitude etc.)

11. Reaction of SRL to Lawyer (if any, positive, negative, body language and verbal attitude etc.)

12. Reaction of Judge to SRL (helpful, positive or negative or mainly silent, body language and verbal attitude etc.)

13. Reaction of Lawyer to SRL (treated as would a lawyer, helpful, body language and verbal attitude etc.)

14. Significant verbal or body language observations